

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, between the title and line 1, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--;

Page 1, between lines 10 and 11, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART--.

Page 3, after the two new paragraphs added by the Preliminary Amendment of February 25, 2002 and before the paragraph beginning with "Object of the invention is", insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This objective is obtained, according to the invention, ~~by means of a product which shows the characteristics of the attached independent claim 1 and by a procedure which presents the characteristics of the attached independent claim 6~~ as disclosed below.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Advantageous applications of the present invention are ~~shown in the dependent claims~~ disclosed below.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It has been experimentally shown that an agglomerate of expanded clay bound by polyester resin can reach a specific weight lower [[then]] than 1kg/dm³.--

Page 4, between lines 17 and 18, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Further characteristics of the invention will be evident from the following description, referred to embodiments given by way of an example, shown in the attached figures, where:

- fig. 1 is an axonometric schematic view of a product with a sandwich structure according to the invention;
- fig. 2 is a view in partial section of the product shown in fig. 1, but with a lateral edge in stone chip material;

- fig. 3 is a view in axonometry of a complex or modular product, from which it is possible, for example, to obtain by cutting and subsequent finishing, single or edged elements, such as that shown in fig. 2; and
- fig. 4 is a view of the product being molded under vibro-compressure under vacuum.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 28, and bridging page 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 1 shows a product (1) according to the invention, having a sandwich structure, including an intermediate support layer ~~as support~~ (2) with a relatively low specific weight, (e.g. consisting of expanded clay), and two surface layers, upper and lower, indicated with the same reference number (3), consisting of stone chips.--

Page 5, after line 3, and before the paragraph beginning with "The product (1) of fig. 1", insert the following new paragraph:

--Optionally, the product (1) could exclude the lower layer (3).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 6, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The product (1) of fig. 1 is obtained, according to convenience, by the technique of vibro-compression under vacuum. See fig. 4 showing surface layer 2 and intermediate layer 3 being concurrently molded by vibro-compression under vacuum within device 1000. Particularly, the intermediate layer is a precast of expanded clay chips bound with polyester resin obtained by the above mentioned technique of vibro-compression under vacuum, on the upper and lower surfaces of which, the surface layers (3) consisting of an agglomerate, for example obtained from marble powder chips bound with polyester resin, are mold, e.g. by said vibro-compression method.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Due to the fact that the larger part of the product (1) thickness is occupied by the intermediate support layer (2), in expanded clay [(2)], the total weight of the product results noticeably lower than the weight of a product of corresponding size made of agglomerated stone, homogeneous in thickness, as clearly shown in the above mentioned example.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--Fig. 3 schematically shows a complex product (100) of modular type, containing a plurality of intermediate support layers (2), in expanded clay, regularly positioned and completely immersed in ~~[[the]]~~ surrounding agglomerated stone ~~[[(3)]]~~ layers (13), which distributes therefore also in the spaces among the intermediate support layers ~~supports~~ (2).--